CLAIMS

We claim:

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- 1. A method for providing electronic mail (e-mail) services, said method comprising: receiving from a sender a request for multiple-party receipt notifications, for an e-mail message; in response to said request, creating at least one tag for said message, indicating that a plurality of persons are to automatically receive said multiple-party receipt notifications; and sending said message with said tag.
- The method of Claim 1, wherein said receiving a request further comprises:
 providing a set of menu entries to said sender; and
 receiving from said sender a selection signal, indicating that said plurality of persons are to automatically receive said multiple-party receipt notifications.
- 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 receiving from said sender a selection signal, indicating that said plurality of persons also are to receive said e-mail message; and
 sending said e-mail message to said plurality of persons.
- 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

 receiving said message from said sender;

 providing said message to a recipient; and

 in response to said request, automatically transmitting said multiple-party receipt notifications to said plurality of persons.
- 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

 providing to a user

 a representation of said e-mail message,

 together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail message;

 wherein said user is one of said plurality of persons.

- 6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising: storing and updating said information.
- 7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising at least one limiting action chosen from: disabling said multiple-party receipt notifications as to a user, responsive to said user's request; limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a domain policy; limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a permissions policy; and limiting the content of said multiple-party receipt notifications.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising: transmitting a secondary receipt notification to said sender;

wherein said secondary receipt notification notifies said sender that one of said plurality of persons received one of said multiple-party receipt notifications.

9. A method for providing e-mail services, said method comprising:

receiving a message from a sender;

providing said message to a recipient; and

in response to a request from said sender, automatically transmitting multiple-party receipt notifications to a plurality of persons;

whereby said plurality of persons may be notified that said recipient has been provided with the content of said message.

- 10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:
- 25 providing to a user

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a representation of said e-mail message,

together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail message;

wherein said user is one of said plurality of persons.

- 11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising: storing and updating said information.
- 12. The method of Claim 9, further comprising at least one limiting action chosen from: disabling said multiple-party receipt notifications as to a user, responsive to said user's request; limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a domain policy; limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a permissions policy; and limiting the content of said multiple-party receipt notifications.

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13. The method of Claim 9, further comprising: transmitting a secondary receipt notification to said sender; wherein said secondary receipt notification notifies said sender that one of said plurality of persons received one of said multiple-party receipt notifications.

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14. A system for providing e-mail services, said system comprising:
means for receiving from a sender a request for multiple-party receipt notifications, for an e-mail message;
means responsive to said request, for creating at least one tag for said message indicating that said plurality of persons are to automatically receive said multiple-party receipt notifications;
means for providing said message to a recipient;

means for

means responsive to said tag, for automatically transmitting said multiple-party receipt notifications to said plurality of persons; and

means for providing limits for said multiple-party receipt notifications.

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15. The system of Claim 14, further comprising:

means for providing to a user

a representation of said e-mail message,

together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail

message;

wherein said user is one of said plurality of persons.

- 16. The system of Claim 15, further comprising: means for storing and updating said information.
- 17. The system of Claim 14, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises at least one of:

means for limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a domain policy; means for limiting the content of said multiple-party receipt notifications;

means for limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a permissions policy; and

means responsive to a user's request, for disabling said multiple-party receipt notifications as to said user.

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18. The system of Claim 14, further comprising:
means for transmitting a secondary receipt notification to said sender;
wherein said secondary receipt notification notifies said sender that one of said plurality of persons

received one of said multiple-party receipt notifications.

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19. A computer-usable medium having computer-executable instructions for providing e-mail services, said computer-usable medium comprising:

means for receiving a request from a sender, specifying a plurality of persons to receive multiple-party receipt notifications of an e-mail message;

means responsive to said request, for creating at least one tag for said message indicating that said plurality of persons are to automatically receive said multiple-party receipt notifications; means for providing said message to a recipient;

means responsive to said tag, for automatically transmitting said multiple-party receipt notifications to said plurality of persons; and

means for providing limits for said multiple-party receipt notifications.

- 20. The computer-usable medium of Claim 19, further comprising:
- means for providing to a user

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- a representation of said e-mail message,
- together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail message; wherein said user is one of said plurality of persons.
- 21. The computer-usable medium of Claim 20, further comprising:
- means for storing and updating said information.
- 22. The computer-usable medium of Claim 19, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises at least one of:
- means for limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a domain policy; means for limiting the content of said multiple-party receipt notifications;
- means for limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a permissions policy; and
- means responsive to a user's request, for disabling said multiple-party receipt notifications as to said user.
- 23. The computer-usable medium of Claim 19, further comprising:

means for transmitting a secondary receipt notification to said sender;

wherein said secondary receipt notification notifies said sender that one of said plurality of persons received one of said multiple-party receipt notifications.